



**Broadcast
Educational
Media
Commission**

Agency Overview

Broadcast Educational Media Commission's (BEMC) focus is to advance education and accelerate the learning of the citizens of this state through public educational broadcasting services.

BEMC traces its roots to 1961 action of the legislature to create Ohio Educational Television Network Commission (OET) which became Ohio Educational Broadcasting Network Commission (OEB) in 1980 prior to becoming Ohio Educational Telecommunications Network Commission in 1985 (OET) and then e-Tech Ohio and in 2013 BEMC.

Through the five names and the 58 years of serving Ohioans, the consistent thread has been Public Broadcasting. Ohio claims the first Public Television license – WCET in Cincinnati in 1954 – leading to a legislative study creating OET to develop access to Public Broadcasting for all Ohioans.

Today's BEMC commission provides leadership and support in extending the knowledge of the citizens of this state by promoting access to and use of educational broadcasting services, including educational television and radio and radio reading services.

BEMC's governing board includes 11 Ohio residents who are voting members along with 4 legislative non-voting members. Among the 11 are the Ohio Superintendent of Education and the Chancellor of Higher Education. Each of the Governor, President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House appoint three members to complete the 11-member governing group.

The commission is a body corporate and politic, an agency of the state performing essential governmental functions of the state. These functions became vital to the continuation of Ohio government during the COVID-19 pandemic. BEMC and our partners at The Ohio Channel and The Statehouse News Bureau connected the Governor to Ohioans via daily briefings and aired all sessions of the Legislature and Supreme Court, spurring an unprecedented level of engagement and transparency via Ohio's Public Media Broadcasters (Public TV, Public Radio, and Radio Reading Services).

In addition, the commission also administers programs to provide financial and other assistance to educational television and radio and radio reading services.

- The Ohio Channel, known in the state budget as Ohio Governmental Telecommunications, provides the prime production along with assistance from the Statehouse News Bureau for government news content
- Broadcast Educational Media Commission – the arm connecting The Ohio Channel with Ohio's Public Broadcasters. BEMC is a team of professionals housed north of downtown in a facility where the lights have never gone out during the Pandemic as broadcasting continued 24/7/365
- Ohio's Alliance of Public Broadcasters known as the broadcast team combining Ohio's Public TV stations, Ohio's Public Radio stations and Ohio's Radio Reading Services – stretching across Ohio to reach virtually – literally and figuratively – every Ohioan.

We often refer to these three interdependent groups as the legs of a three-leg stool. Each has equal importance and, obviously, without any one of the three the stool falls over.

Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021 cast BEMC in a brighter light as a Pandemic struck around the world:

- Ohioans increasing became aware of BEMC as the integral member of the State's Broadcast Team via the Ohio Channel and Statehouse News Bureau producing daily COVID-19 briefings from Governor Mike DeWine
- Ohio parents found the Ohio Public Television stations offering of At-Home Learning a key resource when students found schools closed
- BEMC's broadcast team became the key player in sharing the Governor's daily briefings to Ohio's Public Radio Stations via National Public Radio's (NPR) Content Depot and to commercial stations across Ohio and the nation via satellite connections, while increased viewer demand to The Ohio Channel's web streaming site led to a new State of Ohio partnership with Amazon to support the daily clicks.

Our contribution to the State's Pandemic response leads our FY 20 & 21 Notable Statistics as the State of Ohio's Broadcast Team, BEMC, OGT / SNB and Ohio's Public Broadcasting Partners:

- Aired over 168 COVID-19 news briefings by Governor Mike DeWine (beginning March 7, 2020) via The Ohio Channel, while also sharing the audio stream to the Ohio Public Radio Stations via NPR's Content Depot
- Reporters for the Statehouse News Bureau have produced 440 radio stories about COVID-19 for airing on Ohio Public Radio stations, web sites and social media

- Via our Joint Master Control in FYs 20 & 21, BEMC broadcast 377,236 hours of Public Television programming for Ohioans to enjoy while recording 25,324 programs produced by Ohio Public Television stations or received from the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) for airing on Ohio's Public TV stations
- Working with Ohio's 11 Public Television Stations in FY 20 & 21, in coordination with the Ohio Department of Education, BEMC funded the production of 21 Multimedia Projects resulting in 84 videos for use by Ohio's PK-12 students, families, educators, and educational community

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, through social distancing, separating work areas and providing Proper Protective Equipment, BEMC's lights in our Joint Master Control never went out - staff has been on duty on site during the pandemic so Ohioans can continue to enjoy the enrichment of public educational television

Today BEMC supports:

Eleven (11) Public Television stations (under the Alliance leadership of OET):

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| • WBGU in Bowling Green | • WOSU in Columbus |
| • WCET in Cincinnati (which also operates WPTO in Oxford) | • WOUB in Athens (which also operates WOUC in Cambridge) |
| • WGTE in Toledo | • WPTD (ThinkTV) in Dayton |
| • WNEO in Kent (which also operates WEAO in Youngstown) | • WVIZ in Cleveland (under the corporate name of ideastream) |

Fifteen (15) Primary Public Radio stations (under the Alliance leadership of OPR):

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|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • WCBE-FM in Columbus | • WKSU-FM in Kent |
| • WCPN-FM in Cleveland | • WOSA-FM in Columbus |
| • WCLV-FM in Cleveland | • WOSU-FM in Columbus |
| • WCSU-FM in Wilberforce | • WOUB-AM in Athens |
| • WDPR-FM in Dayton | • WOUB-FM in Athens |
| • WGTE-FM in Toledo | • WYSO-FM in Yellow Springs |
| • WGUC-FM in Cincinnati | • WYSU-FM in Youngstown |
| • WVXU-FM in Cincinnati | |

Seventeen (17) Secondary Public Radio Stations and Five (5) Translators for Public Radio Stations (under the Alliance leadership of OPR)

- WDPG-FM in Greenville
- WGLE-FM in Lima
- WGBE-FM in Bryan
- WGDE-FM in Defiance
- WMUB in Oxford
- WKRW-FM in Wooster
- WKRJ-FM in Dover/New Philadelphia
- WKSV-FM in Thompson
- WNRK-FM in Norwalk
- WOSV-FM in Mansfield
- WOSB-FM in Marion
- WOSP-FM in Portsmouth
- WOSE-FM in Coshocton
- WOSX in Granville
- WOUC-FM in Cambridge
- WOUH-FM in Chillicothe
- WOUL-FM in Ironton
- WOUZ-FM in Zanesville
- Ashland Translator (WKSU)
- Coshocton Translator (WOSU)
- Ashtabula Translator (WYSU)
- Newark Translator (WCBE)
- Mansfield Translator (WKSU)

Six (6) Radio Reading Services (under the Alliance leadership of ORRS):

- Cleveland Sight Center in Cleveland
- GESMV/WORDS in Dayton
- VOICEcorps in Columbus
- WEYE in Akron
- CABVI in Cincinnati
- YRRS in Youngstown

Two Media Sharing Entities:

Ohio Government Telecommunications (OGT) – on the air as The Ohio Channel – and Statehouse News Bureau (SNB) reside in the Ohio Revised Code under the domain of BEMC. Via a grant agreement, ideastream in Cleveland is the managing and fiscal agent for OGT and SNB. In addition to a leading role in Public Broadcasting for Public TV, Public Radio and Radio Reading Services, BEMC connects Ohio K-12 as well as High Education classrooms for video conferencing of academic classes. BEMC's headquarters are in the Richard B. Hull Building at 2470 North Star Road.

BEMC Agency Request - \$1,097,110

Network Operations Center Network 20T Liebert Repair - \$141,750

BEMC is requesting replacement of the 20-ton backup Liebert air conditioning system. This system has been in use over twenty-five years and needs to be replaced. This new system also requires BEMC to upgrade and relocate the electrical system supporting this unit.

Network Operations Center Archive Storage - \$112,140

BEMC currently utilizes a data tape archive system that provides media retention that is not required to be held on disk drive or be on-line. BEMC is requesting to update the current LTO 7 drives to LTO 8 drives to increase storage capability in the Spectralogic T380 system. BEMC provides for a joint master control facility that incorporates media from many resources such as PBS, affiliate production media, legacy educational media, OGT media. BEMC's requirement for media retention is growing and implementation of these devices will assist in maintaining this requirement.

Network Operations Center Server Replacement Phase 2 - \$480,420

BEMC is requesting replacement of multiple servers that provide the On-Air playout channels for the affiliate stations of WBGU, WCET, WGTE, WOSU, WPTD, WPTO, and OGT. As no playout services are utilized by WNEO, WOUB, and WVIZ, this request provides for no accommodation for them. BEMC operates a joint master control facility that provides playout channels through the operations of multiple servers. These servers operate at the heart of the network operations center and are critical in providing playout operations to our affiliate stations. We are projecting that we will have reached six to seven years of continuous service on these servers which will exceed the industry's useful life standards.

Network Operations Center On-Line Media Storage - \$200,000

BEMC is requesting additional on-line storage to maintain the joint master control facility. BEMC provides for a joint master control facility that incorporates media from many resources such as PBS, affiliate production media, legacy educational media, OGT media. BEMC's requirement for media retention is growing and implementation of these devices will assist in maintaining this requirement.

Network Operations Center Satellite Receivers - \$102,800

BEMC is requesting replacement satellite receivers to maintain the joint master control facility. BEMC provides for a joint master control facility that incorporates media acquired many resources such as PBS, OGT, and other public broadcasting entities. BEMC's requirement for acquisition of satellite media continues and implementation of these devices will assist in

maintaining this requirement. The existing components have been in continuous service since 2012.

Network Operations Center Telestream Lightspeed Server - \$60,000

BEMC currently utilizes a Telestream Lightspeed server system that provides for media format conversion for all BEMC media associated with PBS and our member stations. Put into service in 2018, this hardware will be reaching 5-6 years in continuous use.